

Date: Sun, 26 Dec 93 04:30:05 PST  
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>  
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu  
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu  
Precedence: Bulk  
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #1510  
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest                      Sun, 26 Dec 93                      Volume 93 : Issue 1510

Today's Topics:

    Good Stores/Mail Order/Emergency Use in Car  
    Good Stores/Mail Order/Emergency Use in Car - very long/rambling  
        WHERE ARE ALL THE YOU (3 msgs)

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>  
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>  
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available  
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text  
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official  
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.  
-----

Date: 26 Dec 1993 04:23:37 -0500  
From: library.ucla.edu!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!paladin.american.edu!gatech!  
udel!news.sprintlink.net!clark.net!clark.net!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: Good Stores/Mail Order/Emergency Use in Car  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <CIJt5v.5KG@cbnews1.cb.att.com>,  
david.k.kallman <dkk@cbnews1.cb.att.com> wrote:

>Two quick questions:

>1. Are there any good stores in the New Jersey/New York  
>area for ham radio equipment? Also good mail order? The  
>people on the MS group got me hooked up to two incredible  
>stores, one that has the patent on the particular type of  
>hand control that I just put on my car, and one that  
>attends all the trade shows and got me hooked up to this  
>brand new breakthrough type of wheelchair. So I'm looking  
>for "the best" like this on amateur radio equipment too.

I don't know about stores in your area, but a good mail order place would be Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) at 1-800-558-0411.

I think amateur radio would be what you need. I hope you don't plan to use it just when you have an emergency, but if you're just going to do that, you will be cutting yourself from the friendly people that are on the air.

Good luck with getting the license.

Matt Roberts

-----  
Date: 26 Dec 93 10:31:10 GMT  
From: att-out!cbnews1!dkk@rutgers.rutgers.edu  
Subject: Good Stores/Mail Order/Emergency Use in Car - very long/rambling  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Folks,

I am impressed!! From a post on Christmas Eve to now late Christmas day, I've received 6 followup mailings and one followup posting answering my question: from Sandy Lynch (WA6BXH), Mark Filteau (KD4GGP), Andy Funk (KB7UV), Sharon (KC1YR), Skip Sanders, Gary Coffman (KE4ZV), Bruce Toback (KN6MN). (Hope I didn't miss anyone, my apologies if I did). This is in addition to several people, Bob Witte (KB0CY), Richard Masoner, Mark Monninger, and Jim Jaworksi (VE4JAF) who scanned traffic on the telephony newsgroups where I started this conversation (as CB vs. cellular) and got me hooked up with amateur radio. (I've listed the call signs for the people who listed them in their mail - I'm sure almost all the others have them too, but I didn't see them in their mail). Thank you immensely to all who responded!

Basically, I'm totally sold on going with amateur radio for my needs (this is a highly personal decision - I must, must be very clear about this). The support and detailed answers from the dedicated people out there, the FAQ files on the ARRL server, the knowledge that the whole world is behind you in a very supportive way, some of the unique applications available on amateur radio, plus being a tinkerer by nature make amateur radio a win for me.

The absolutely least expensive way for me to go may be to get a cellular phone, don't activate it to any service, and it should work with 911. I didn't know this; none of the

cellular services I talked to went out of their way to tell me about this. I just asked them for lifeline service, which is where the \$20/month came in. (Note since 911 should work with an inactivated phone I might just have the \$20/month for one year or so). I can afford the \$20/month, but I had I difficulty in my own mind justifying \$240/year even for one year (and originally I thought it was forever) for something that I might use once a year, especially where I do most of my driving on the Garden State Parkway, where the calvary is at most 10-15 minutes away. Plus trying to save up to put 3 kids through college. (As a contrast, I got several mailings from the cellular side asking how to get a \$20/month service, which people thought was very inexpensive.)

Getting involved with ham/amateur (by the way is there a sensitivity of one vs. the other? - I'll use them interchangeably below and I apologize if this is a gaff) radio wasn't even close to the original question I was asking, which was CB vs. cellular. It never occurred to me all that was involved with amateur radio. But definitely for me amateur has skyrocketed to the number one choice. Basically it's the people, unbelievable!! And the technical aspects sound cool too. And I have 3 kids ages 6, 9, and 12 who have been involved with all kinds of home computers since birth. My wife is the only unenthusiastic person. Her brother was big into amateur radio, while they were kids together, and my wife had a license herself many years ago. I guess this is just old hat to her, but I'll find that application that will get her involved too.

Based on a first set of answers in comp.dcom.telecom.tech earlier in the week and the FAQ files (this is before the 7 new postings/mailings above), I went out and got just about all the books that Radio Shack had - an unplanned Christmas present for the family yesterday. My second post on rec.radio.amateur.misc was just being cautious; it sounded too good to be true.

Note I'm speaking strictly for myself here, and don't represent the views of my employeer. For people who need to make a receive a lot of calls from their cars or while on the move, cellular is a great service, and I am totally supportive of that, and so too is the American public. My profile/needs are different (I want to make/receive calls from the car only very infrequently) and based on the wildfire public acceptance of cellular now distinctly in the minority. That's cool, there's room for diversity.

So now it's time to hit the books! My biggest challenge over the next month is going to keep my 12 year old away from the ham radio books. He's a bigger electronic junkie than I am, but he has a big school project over the next month that he has to stay really focused on. Once that's over I think it's going to be a very healthy change for him to go from spending his spare time playing computer games on the PC and being hooked up to all the computer BBSs to being an amateur radio person! And we'll see how long it takes my 6 and 9 year olds to get licenses too.

Cheers, thanks for all your help, and Happy New Year all!!

Dave Kallman

P.S.: Thanks also for individual offers of help. I will get back to you separately on them.

P.P.S.: Excuse the rambling nature of the post above. It was already late tonight when I got on the computer and was overwhelmed by seeing the 7 new responses. I wanted to respond right away before going to bed, and I'm only semi-coherent now. It's much later now ;-).

--

----

Dave Kallman, AT&T, 480 Red Hill Rd., Middletown, NJ 07748  
d\_k\_kallman@att.com, (908)615-2989, fax: (908)615-2507

-----

Date: Sat, 25 Dec 93 12:16:27  
From: netcomsv!netcomsv!lavc!lawrence.goodwin@decwrl.dec.com  
Subject: WHERE ARE ALL THE YOU  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

N> It took me 6 weeks of intensive work to get to 5 WPM, and 2 more years  
N> to reach 13 WPM, but I agree that I was extraordinarily motivated to  
N> get the amateur license and I wasn't going to let the code stop me.

Hello Gary. The point I was trying to make was that it has NEVER been easier to obtain an amateur license than it is now. When I see people say that they'd LIKE to enter amateur radio, but won't/can't because of the code requirement, I do a double-take! I really expected to see an end to this kind of whining with the advent of the no-code ticket, and am amazed to see it thriving almost three years later. Considering that most future amateur contributions to radio arts will take place above VHF, the Tech privileges are very broad, and are only 45 easy

questions away from everyone.

N> However, not everyone has an easy time with Morse, and some have  
N> learning quirks that make the sounds run together or even reverse,  
N> a sort of aural dyslexia. To them it's more than hard, it's often

Anyone with a learning disorder and a doctor can get a code waiver by just making an appointment. I know a few people who have gotten one by simply picking up the phone and telling their doctor they need it! How much easier does it have to be before all these "enthusiasts" get their long denied licenses?

N> are born to be guitar players, others are forever doomed to be a  
N> beat behind. Manual rhythm skills aren't something that people

Code at 5WPM is hardly rhythmic. Count the damn dits and dahs, pass the silly test and move on. If someone can't even do that, surely they are a good candidate for a code waiver. Again....move on, and start enjoying the hobby!

N> code, even at 5 WPM. He's a ham now though, at least in a limited  
N> fashion, thanks to the code test free Tech license. So there are  
N> people who can't easily learn Morse, or even learn it at all, but  
N> who still have a burning desire to be hams.

See above mention of code waivers....the means to accomodate such people is already in place, and there is no reason for anyone with a legitimate need to not take advantage of it. I applaud your friend for jumping in and getting his Tech, and I don't feel his license is as limited as you think.

I'm no code enthusiast...I seldom use it (have only about 50 or so CW QSO's under my belt) and am not very good at it. Furthermore I recognize it as a nearly obsolete mode that is primarily still alive for sentimental reasons. I just feel that an amateur license is a privilege to be earned, not a right we are entitled to. Eventually the code requirements will be relaxed (if not dropped) and until that time people certainly have the right to protest and try to bring about change. But in the meantime, those who simply stay on the sidelines and refuse to take advantage of the alternatives (no-code tech and waivers) are only cheating themselves.

73 and Merry Xmas de Larry, KC6WOG

-----

Date: 26 Dec 1993 03:48:55 -0500

From: swrinde!gatech!udel!news.sprintlink.net!clark.net!clark.net!not-for-

mail@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: WHERE ARE ALL THE YOU  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <2ffvul\$qi9@apple.com>, Kok Chen <kchen@apple.com> wrote:  
>lawrence.goodwin@support.com writes:  
>  
>>>Where are all the young enthusiasts?  
>>  
>>>> They are waiting for the obsolete code requirements to be eliminated.  
>>  
>>Nonsense. No real "enthusiast" would let 5 WPM or even 13 WPM stand in  
>>their way. Geez, I learned morse at 5 WPM in three evenings of casual  
>>practice; no reason why others can't.  
>  
>  
>5 wpm is as arbitrary a speed as 20 wpm. What if the rules say that  
>you have to pass 20 wpm to get access to HF? And, really, some of us  
>only had to practice a couple of weeks to attain that speed and no  
>real "enthusiast" would let a wimpy thing like that getting in their  
>way. Do you then still think that a Morse requirement is a good idea?

I think the code requirements should be relaxed. You're right in saying that the code speed is arbitrary. The emphasis should be placed on the theory, not how fast you can send and receive code. Some people have said that code is an old mode of communication. I don't agree with that reasoning but we need to look at what the ITU requirements say. As I recall, they only require a knowledge of the code but it doesn't say you have to send and copy at a certain speed. In other countries, the code requirements are not as strict as they are in the USA.

73, Matt Roberts N3GZM

-----  
Date: 26 Dec 1993 04:03:27 -0500  
From: swrinde!gatech!udel!news.sprintlink.net!clark.net!clark.net!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: WHERE ARE ALL THE YOU  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Here is some information on the code waver. You can't get it unless you have passed the 5WPM code test. There are some people who can't even do that because of learning disabilities. If these people are allowed to get a Novice, General, Advanced, or xtra they won't be able to use their privileges. The ITU requires \*ALL\* HF operators to know code. I hope I have shed some light on the subject.

73, Matt Roberts N3GZM

-----

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #1510

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*